

August 26, 1959

Dr. Wolf Vishniac
Department of Microbiology
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Dear Wolf:

Thank you for your note of the 17th. I was, of course, very pleased at the conclusions of the Bio-Astronautics Panel. I am sure they will add great weight, especially with the Military Services, to our conservation program. I was pleased to learn, after joining the Space Science Board, how vigorously this group had also taken up the same cause.

We are having another meeting of Westex here at Stanford on September 26th. Would it be possible for you to transpose or extend your stay in California so that you can join us at that time? We will be going over a draft position paper for the Space Science Board on the whole question of extraterrestrial life and we would be very pleased if you could sit with us.

With best regards,

Joshua Lederberg

P.S. Wolf, it seems to me we very badly need someone who would be willing to move to Washington, preferably in NASA itself, to give some direction to the program in planetary biology. Without this I am not too optimistic over the longrange prospects of a coherent program. Before trying to push this in the administration, which would not necessarily be too difficult, we should have some suggestions for competent people. Can you offer any? Can you visualize any circumstances in which you might be available yourself?

Vishniac, W.